Disinvestment of NALCO

†3577. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for capital disinvestment from Orissa based profit earning National Aluminium Company is still pending with Government; and

(b) whether his Ministry considers this kind of capital disinvestment proposal justified, and if not, the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The capital disinvestment decision in National Aluminum Company Limited, was one of the four disinvestment decision, which was put on hold on 6th July, 2006, pending further review. The said review is yet to be completed.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Closure of 120 Centrally Sponsored Schemes

3578. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that his Ministry is planning to close down about 120 Centrally sponsored schemes in the coming Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of schemes, Ministry-wise;

(c) whether Government have taken any measures for relocation of manpower because of closure of the schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) No, Sir, There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present. Schemes are discontinued on the basis of Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise. The primary purpose of ZBB exercise is to ensure convergence, efficiency and efficacy of schemes according to Plan objectives and priorities and also

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the use of available resources in the most judicious and economically efficient manner. Such an exercise is done regularly.

Institutional credit to small and marginal farmers

3579. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 70 per cent of all economic activities in the rural sector are associated with small and marginal farmers, a substantial proportion of all institutional agricultural credit should go towards small and marginal farmers;

(b) what proportion of the total agricultural credit went to the small and marginal farmers during first three quarters of 2006-07;

(c) what proportion of the Priority Sector Lending is currently earmarked for agricultural sector and actually disbursed in the first three quarters of 2006-07; and

(d) the details on the composition of the agricultural credit for direct and indirect agricultural uses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Capital expenditure on rural development

3580. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the budgeting system, there is no capital expenditure on rural development in the Union Budget documents; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether there are several instances in which the final utilization of the money is for capital expenditure, but is shown as revenue expenditure in the Union Budget documents;

(c) whether it does not lead to accounting problems in estimation of the gross revenue and capital expenditure by the Centre and States;